



THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
OFFICE TO COMBAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NEW YORK CITY'S BRONX FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER  
CELEBRATES TWO YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

*The Bronx Family Justice Center helps a record number of domestic violence victims during  
National Crime Victims' Prevention Week*

New York City's third one-stop domestic violence center, the New York City Family Justice Center in the Bronx, has helped over 4,500 victims and over 1,200 children find safety and support in its first two years. The Center began providing comprehensive services to victims of domestic violence on April 19, 2010. Victims can develop a safety plan, apply for an order of protection, meet with an attorney, apply for housing, receive immigration assistance, and begin long-term counseling – all in their own language and while their children play safely in the Children's Room. As a result of the Center, more victims are receiving help than ever before.

“Over the past year, the Family Justice Center has helped thousands of victims find safety and realize their dreams of living a life free from violence,” said Commissioner Yolanda B. Jimenez of the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence. “The Center has streamlined the many services the City provides to victims of domestic violence by bringing various agencies together under one roof.”

In the Bronx, major domestic violence felonies are down 2% year to-date compared to last year. In 2011, there were over 77,000 incidents of domestic violence filed with the New York City Police Department in the Bronx – yet it is well documented nationally that domestic violence is underreported.

Immigrant victims of domestic violence face additional challenges. The Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence secured funding last year to expand the number of bilingual immigration attorneys at each of its three Family Justice Centers. Since 2008, 1,500 petitions for immigration remedies have been filed, including 700 work authorizations and over 550 U-Visa petitions.

*(more)*

In addition, programs that support investigations, prosecutions, and victims' services are sustained through funding from the Violence Against Women Act which was reauthorized by the U.S. Senate this Thursday and now awaits passage in the U.S. House of Representatives.

“All victims of domestic violence are encouraged to seek help regardless of their immigration status or the language they speak,” said Commissioner Jimenez. Victims may reach the NYC Domestic Violence Hotline by calling 311. In case of emergency, they should dial 911.

The following services are available at the Center in the Bronx:

- Information on civil legal matters involving family law, and immigration
- Children's activities
- Safety planning
- Financial assistance
- Assistance with filing Police and Probation reports
- Counseling
- Parenting and support groups
- Prosecution of domestic violence crimes
- Services for the elderly and/or disabled
- Access to shelter and housing
- Language interpretation

The New York City Family Justice Center in the Bronx is a public-private partnership coordinated with the help of the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization established to promote partnerships between the City and the private sector. This Center in the Bronx, built by the Department of Citywide Administrative Services using a number of green and recycled materials, is supported by a diverse group of companies, foundations, and citizens which includes: Verizon Wireless, Verizon Foundation, the Avon Foundation for Women, the Robin Hood Foundation, the Brooke Jackman Foundation, Xerox, WebHouse, Inc., Dell, Inc., Cisco Systems, Inc., and NetApp, Inc. Additional information on how to make a donation to the New York City Family Justice Initiative is available at [www.nyc.gov/fund](http://www.nyc.gov/fund).

The City's first Center, in downtown Brooklyn, was opened in 2005, and the second Center in Kew Gardens, Queens, opened in 2008. To date, all three Centers have assisted over 72,000 victims.

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